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REGULATORY ALERT #2005-0001 Final Rule on Leak Repair Requirements for Appliances Using Refrigerant Substitutes

General: On January 11, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Final Rule on Leak Repair Requirements for Appliances Using Refrigerant Substitutes. This rule extends the leak repair required practices and the associated reporting and record-keeping requirements to owners and/or operators of comfort cooling, commercial refrigeration, or industrial process refrigeration appliances containing more than 50 pounds of a substitute refrigerant, if the substitute contains a class I or class II ozone-depleting substance.

In addition, the EPA has defined leak rate in terms of the percentage of the appliance's full charge that would be lost over a consecutive 12-month period, if the current rate of loss were to continue over that period. EPA now requires calculation of the leak rate every time that refrigerant is added to an appliance.

A copy of the final rule as published in the Federal Register and additional information is available for viewing and downloading at <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/title6/608/index.html>.

Additional Information: If you have any questions or concerns about this alert, please contact the Department Environmental Manager, Peter Wixted, at (202) 482-3444, or via e-mail pwixted@doc.gov.